

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A signal switching apparatus ~~that assigns a plurality of signals input to a mix bus comprising a plurality of buses, to respective desired output channels assigned to respective ones of the buses, and outputs the plurality of signals via the output channels, comprising:~~

a plurality of mix buses;

a plurality of checking signal generating devices that generate checking signals different from each other; ~~and~~

a checking signal input device that causes the checking signals generated by said plurality of checking signal generating devices to be selectively input to respective desired ~~buses of the mix bus~~ buses; and

an input signal input device that causes an input signal to be input to any selected bus of said mix buses.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A signal switching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of mix buses are grouped into a plurality of groups.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A signal switching apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said checking signal input device comprises a selecting device that selects ~~desired~~ checking signals to be input to ~~part of the plurality of groups~~ a group from among the plurality of checking signals, and wherein the checking signals selected by said selecting device are input to ~~all of the~~ mix buses belonging to the ~~part of the plurality of groups~~ group.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A signal switching apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said checking signal input device ~~causes~~ dedicates part of the plurality of checking signals to be ~~always input to all of the~~ mix buses belonging to a predetermined ~~part of the plurality of groups~~ group.

Claim 5 (canceled)